

REMARKS

Interview Summary:

Applicant's attorney, Nathaniel Ari Long, would like to thank Examiner Sheng-Jen Tsai for the courtesy of a telephone interview conducted on Oct. 18, 2005. At the interview, the invention and U.S. Pat. 6,327,614 (Asano) were discussed.

In particular, the "adaptable cache" aspect of the claims was discussed. Examiner suggested that further definition of the "adaptable" requirement would be beneficial for the purpose of overcoming Asano. Applicants suggested the amendments set forth above. The examiner responded that, if such amendments are indeed supported by the specification, additional consideration and review of other references would be necessary to fully evaluate such amendments.

Finally, Applicants and Examiner discussed Asano column 5, lines 1-12, and Figures 5, 6, and 7. Applicants explained their position that while this text provides "the above described units constituting the NIP 11 are connected by a standard bus such as PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect) bus 26" and "it is also possible to connect the processor 21, the NIP local memory 22, and the PCI bus 26 by an ASIC (Application Specific Integrated Circuit) called bridge chip," neither this text nor Asano's figures disclose placing various cache memory components in a single, hot swappable adaptable cache unit. Instead, the various elements such as Asano's processor and NIP are either separately connected to Asano's PCI bus, or variously connected to a bridge chip.

Remarks

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 13, and 22 are the independent claims. In an office action dated 08/04/05, claims 1-23 were rejected as anticipated by U.S. Pat. 6,327,614 (Asano). In view of the above listed amendments, the rejection is respectfully traversed.


The independent claims have been amended to clarify that the adaptable cache is hot-swappable. Support for this feature may be found at least at application paragraph 00073, 00092, and 00098. No new matter was added.

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It is believed that the above amendments overcome Asano and the other references of record. Applicants respectfully await Examiner's action upon further review and consideration of the art, in light of the amendments made herein.

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